

USSN 09/988, 689  
Response

71. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 70, at least one supplementary link being stored in a datastructure that is separate from the primary web page.
72. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 71, the datastructure being associated with the primary web page.
73. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 70, the means being in response to a user initiated command.
74. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 70, the associating being through an HTML tag on the primary web page.
75. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 73, the user initiated command being a keystroke command code.
76. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 73, the user initiated command being through an icon.
77. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 73, the user initiated command being a browser option.
78. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 76, the icon being on a browser's tool bar.
79. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 70, including a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary link to the primary web page.
80. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 79, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new supplementary link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.
81. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 70, further including means for searching for supplementary links within a specified proximity to a cursor.
82. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 70, further including a search engine that searches for supplementary links that meet specified search criterion.
- 83 (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of linking web pages, comprising the steps of:  
associating at least one supplementary link with a primary web page, such supplementary link does not have an anchor on the primary web page, thus a supplementary link is normally hidden from view and does not disrupt the flow of text or graphics displayed on the web page;  
providing information processing means by which the at least one supplementary link is

USSN 09/988, 689  
Response

transformed into a regular hypertext link.

86. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 83, the means being in response to a user initiated command.

87. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 83, the associating being through an HTML tag on the primary web page.

88. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 86, the user initiated command being a keystroke command code.

89. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 86, the user initiated command being through an icon.

90. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 86, the user initiated command being a browser option.

91. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 89, the icon being on a browser's tool bar.

92. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 83, including a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary link to the primary web page.

93. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 92, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new supplementary link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

94. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 83, further including means for searching for supplementary links within a specified proximity to a cursor.

95. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in claim 83, further including a search engine that searches for supplementary links that meet specified search criterion.

96. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in Claim 83, the association between at least one supplementary link and the primary web page being explicitly reflected as content within the primary web page.

97. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in Claim 83, the association between at least one supplementary link and the primary web page being implicitly derived from a selected attribute of the primary web page.

USSN 09/988, 689  
Response

98. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 83, having multiple supplementary links, with each supplementary link being linked to a pixel or a point between pixels on the primary web page.

99. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 83, multiple supplementary links being linked to an individual pixel or a point between pixels on the primary web page.

135. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in Claim 70, the association between at least one supplementary link and the primary web page being explicitly reflected as content within the primary web page.

136. (ORIGINAL) The method as defined in Claim 70, the association between at least one supplementary link and the primary web page being implicitly derived from a selected attribute of the primary web page.

137. (Previously AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 70, having multiple supplementary links, with each supplementary link being linked to a pixel or a point between pixels on the primary web page.

138. (Previously AMENDED) The method as defined in claim 70, multiple supplementary links being linked to an individual pixel or a point between pixels on the primary web page.

#### REMARKS

There are now only two independent claims, 70 and 83. They are distinguished from the prior art by specifically excluding key features which had been a necessary part of the prior art. In Claim 83, the complete anchor is excluded from the content of the primary web page. In Claim 70, only the features which make an anchor visible and selectable are excluded. As these independent claims are distinct from the prior art, they stand on their own. All dependent claims are now allowable. No dependent claim can be rejected on the grounds that they are an obvious combination of prior arts because the independent claims are not covered by the prior art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, requests the early issue of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Earl A. Culham

